Report of National Sample Survey on Starvation

252. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a National Sample Survey has estimated that five per cent of the population in the country sleeps without two square meals a day;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure that no citizen sleeps hungry in the country and does not die untimely of starvation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) As per consumer expenditure survey conducted between July 99 and June 2000 about 3.3% households in rural areas and 0.9% in urban areas do not get enough food every day.

Government have launched various Welfare Schemes as also employment generation schemes wherein foodgrains are also provided in lieu of wages.

Reported Starvation Deaths

253. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported starvation deaths in some States;

(b) whether Government have received detailed reports in the matter from concerned State Governments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) Reports of starvation deaths have appeared in section of the Press. The State Governments of Orissa, Rajasthan and Jharkhand have not intimated any "starvation deaths".